in India. Extra procurement of Digital Switching Equipment was necessitated by the urgent need to expand and modernise DoT's Telecom Network.

(b) Some of the important features of ISDN facility provided in this technology are:

(i) Two 64 Kbps Digital Channels and a 16 Kbps digital signaling channel for Basis Rate Access.

(ii) Supplementary services like Calling Line Identification, Call Waiting, Terminal Portability and Multiple Subscriber Number.

2. The cost of ISDN facility is included in the cost of Digital Switching Equipment.

(c) The number of subscribers using ISDN are 309. The revenue generated so far is about Rs. 50 lakhs.

(d) The number of subscribers using ISDN services in some of the developed countries in 1995, is as follows:—

(i) U.S.A.	—	507310
(ii) Japan	—	343640
(iii) Germany	—	961610
(iv) France	—	171000
(v) U.K.	—	260000
(vi) Italy	—	49060

Tnder For Jelly Filled Telephone Cables

4126. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Telecommunications had floated tender for jelly filled telephone cables;

(b) if so, the details inrespect of: (i) quantity and value, (ii) list of bidders and prices quoted, (iii) actual orders placed on each bidder in terms of quantity and percentage of the total order;

(c) the recommendations of the Tender Evaluation Committee regarding quantity to be ordered to each bidder; and

(d) the names of the firms that have been given orders either more or less than the quantities recommended by the Tender Evaluation Committee and extent of variation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, sir. Tender was issued on 29-1-1997 and opened on 25-3-1997.

(b) (i) The tender is for procurement of 359 lakh conductor kilometers of Polythene insulated Jelly filled cables at an estimated cost of Rs. 3381.00 crore.

(ii) As per Annexure. [*See* Appendix 180. Annexure No. 86]

(iii) The tender is presently under evaluation.

(c) The tender is presently under evaluation.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer (c) above.

Licence Agreement by LOI Holders

4127. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the LOIs issued for providing basic telephone services;

(b) the number of selected bidders who have signed the Licence Agreement and paid the first instalment of licence fee; and

(c) the action proposed in respect of LOI holders who are yet to sign the licence agreement?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) 12 Letters of Intent (LOIs) have so far been issued to 8 companies for provision of Basic Telephone Service in 12 Telecom Circles. Out of these, cases of 7 LOIs issued to 4 companies are sub-judice in the High Court of Delhi. 2 LOIs have been converted into Licences. In respect of remaining 3 LOIs, the concerned

companies are yet to complete formalities to convert them into Licences.

(b) 2 companies *viz.*, M/s. Bharti Telent Ltd, and M/s. Reliance Telecom Pvt. Ltd. after having paid the first instalment of Licence fee, have signed the Licence and Interconnect Agreements for Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat Service Areas respectively.

(c) Government has made appropriate efforts to resolve the issues raised by them. Their LOIs will be converted into Licences soon after the receipt of requisite Licence fee for the first year.

Status of LOI providing Cellular Services

4128. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the LOIs issued for providing cellular services in various States;

(b) whether all LOI holders have executed the licence agreement and paid the first instalment of licence fee; and

(c) if not, the name of defaulters and action being taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) All the 8 LOIs issued for four metro cities and 33 LOIs out of the 34 LOIs issued for Telecom Circles, have been converted into licence agreements. All LOI holders except one have executed the licence agreement and paid the first instalment of licence fee.

(c) One company, namely M/s HHS Communications Pvt. Ltd. who was awarded LOI for Tamil Nadu Circle, have not executed the licence agreement. The bank guarantee of the company for earnest money deposit was invoked. However, the company has filed a petition in Chennai High Court. The Hon'ble Court has restrained the bank from making the payment. The case is at present sub judice.

Report of Working Group of Standards for Telecom Equipments

4129. SHRI: GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working group set to lay down standards for telecom equipment components and infrastructure has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, the details of the observations/recommendations made by the working group;

(c) Government's reaction thereto and the details of action taken thereon;

(d) the present status of the proposal; and

(e) by when, Government are to take final view and decide upon in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Standards & Specification for telecom equipment & components and infrastructure are being laid down by Telecom Eegineering Centre. There is no separate Working Group to lay down standards for all telecom equipments.

(b) to (e) Does not arise in view of above.

Non-fulfilment of commitments by ESSAR and USHA Group

4130. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to encash the guarantees of two basic telecom companies viz. ESSAR and USHA Group Telecom;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have